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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl No.: 10/047,275
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Confirmation No.: 4501
Group Art Unit: 2681
Examiner:

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Technology Center 2600

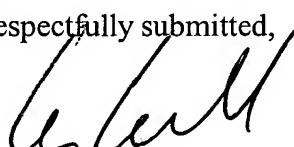
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

The documents listed on the attached PTO-1449 are cited herein because they were cited in the Search Report of corresponding PCT/EP00/06824, filed July 17, 2000. A copy of the Search Report and the cited references are enclosed. The Examiner may also wish to consider the notations on the Search Report itself regarding the relevance of each item.

It is requested that the Examiner consider these references and officially make them of record in accordance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97 and Section 609 of the MPEP. By submitting the listed documents, Applicant in no way makes any admission as to the prior art status of the listed documents, but is instead submitting the listed documents for the sake of full disclosure.

Respectfully submitted,


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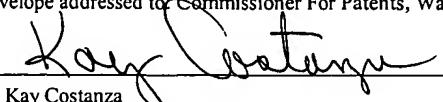
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner For Patents, Washington, DC 20231, on February 17, 2003.


Kay Costanza